

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/998,892

Examiner

Kuen S. Lu

Applicant(s)

ROSNOW ET AL.

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Appel Brief, filed on October 31, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-34 and 36-45, renumbered to 1-43.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date #1-1/18/06.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other See Continuation Sheet.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 9. Other: Drawings filed 12/3/01 are accepted.

DETAILED ACTION

1. After a thorough search and examination of the present application, and in light of the prior art made of record, update searches conducted, Applicant's Appeal Brief filed on October 31, 2005 and claim limitations most currently amended, Claims 1-5, 7-34 and 36-45 are allowed.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Ramon R. Hoch (Registration: 34,108) on January 18, 2006. The interview summary is attached.

Page 10, Lines 10-12 of Specification is amended as below:
example, by using a locally recognized URL, e.g., <http://kraftework.kraft.com> or externally, over the Internet selecting an externally accessible URL, e.g., <http://www.kraftework.com>.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In the Examiner's Office Action for Final Rejection of May 31, 2005, 35 U.S.C. § 103, rejections was primarily based on the references of

Goerz et al. ("METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROJECT CUSTOMIZED BUSINESS TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT WITH INDEXED KNOWLEDGE BASE", U.S. Patent Application, **2002/0065671**, Filed on January 30, 2001, hereafter "Goerz") and **Page** et al. ("TRACKPOINT-BASED COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR FACILITATING COLLABORATIVE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION", U.S. Patent **6,212,549**, Issued on April 3, 2001, hereafter "Page"), and in view of the following references in various combinations:

Kidder et al. ("SIGNATURES FOR FACILITATING HOT UPGRADES OF MODULAR SOFTWARE COMPONENTS", U.S. Patent Application, **2004/00310030**, Filed on February 5, 2001, hereafter "Kidder");

Chappel et al. ("METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR QUANTITATIVELY ASSESSING PROJECT RISK AND EFFECTIVENESS", U.S. Patent Application, **2003/0101089**, Filed on November 29, 2001, hereafter "Chappel");

Sandoval et al. ("METHOD FOR IMPLEMENTING A BEST PRACTICE IDEA", U.S. Patent Application, **2003/0004766**, Filed on March 22, 2002, hereafter "Sandoval");

Underwood ("SYSTEM, METHOD AND ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE FOR AN ACTIVITY FRAMEWORK DESIGN IN AN E-COMMERCE BASED ENVIRONMENT", U.S. Patent **6,718,535**, Issued on July 30, 1999); and

Gennaro et al. ("SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING AND DISPLAYING A WEB PAGE HAVING AN EMBEDDED MENU", U.S. Patent **5,742,768**, issued on July 16, 1996, hereafter "Gennaro").

In the Appeal Brief filed on October 31, 2005 and the Remarks filed on March 21, 2005, the Applicant basically pointed out that the combined teaching of the **Goerz, Page, Gennaro, Sandoval and Chappel** references failed to teach the following subject matters:

“evaluate the proposed new project using criteria including the search results for information on previously proposed projects to generate an evaluation document; and a graphical user interface providing contextual help for users displayed as pop-up or scroll in thumbnail windows appearing on the user's display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow and rests it on a button or heading in the screen” as claimed in independent claims **1 and 11**;

“planning a plurality of project development phases for said project development, wherein said project development phases are capable of being displayed on display units of a plurality of browser-based clients of a computer system, and said clients each comprising a browser operable to communicate with a server which can retrieve stored information on previously submitted projects from computer database and pass the retrieved information to the display unit of the client from which the request was made; and providing a graphical user interface providing contextual help for users displayed as pop-up or scroll in thumbnail windows appearing on the user's display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow and rests it on a button or heading in the screen” as claimed in independent claim **40**; and

“evaluate the proposed new project using criteria including the search results for information on previously proposed projects to generate an evaluation document;

and selecting means for permitting a user to select one or more names of desired team members for recipients of e-mail in a window by selectively checking boxes next to displayed names of the team members without having to scroll out of a screen to send the e-mail" as claimed in independent claim **45**.

In the Appeal Brief filed on October 31, 2005 and the Remarks filed on March 21, 2005, the Applicant further pointed out that the Examiner failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness on combining **Page, Sandoval, Chappel and Underwood** references to teach the subject matter as claimed in the twenty limitations of the independent claim **29**.

After further review of the search results previously conducted and consideration of the above Remarks, Appeal Brief and the most currently amended claims, the Examiner is persuaded that the prior art made of record does not teach the subject matter as described earlier or fairly enough to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness on combining references to provide teaching for the claim subject matter.

An expanded and updated search for the prior arts on EAST database and on domains (NPL-ACM, Google, NPL-IEEE) has been conducted whose search logs are attached. The prior arts searched and investigated in the database and domains further convince the Examiner that subject matter as claimed in each of the independent claims 1, 11, 29, 40 and 45 is allowable.

The dependent claims in the groups (2-5, 7-10 and 43), (12-28 and 44), (29-34 and 36-39) and (41-42), depending claims 1, 11, 29 and 40, respectively, also distinct from the prior art for the same reason.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

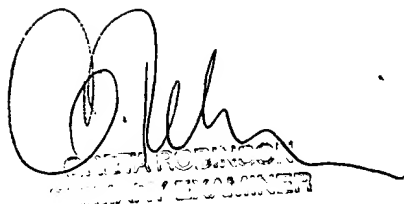
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Kuen S. Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:30 am - 5:30 pm). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, Jean R. Homere, Esq. can be reached on (571) 272-3780. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for Page 13 published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kuen S. Lu, *kslu*
Patent Examiner,

January 18, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Lu', with a stylized flourish extending to the right. Below the signature is a faint, rectangular stamp or watermark.